

# Romaine Announces \$4 Million in Federal Funding for Sandy-Damaged Boardwalks on Fire Island Secured by Senators Schumer and Gillibrand

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## **Boardwalks in Cherry Grove, Davis Park, Ocean Bay Park, Water Island & Fire Island Pines Sustained Damage from Superstorm Sandy**

**Farmingville, NY** - Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine today announced that the Town has received over \$4 million in federal funding for the repair of boardwalks in five Fire Island communities that were damaged as a result of Superstorm Sandy. The funding is being provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance program.

"Our Fire Island communities play a critical part of our summer tourist economy in the Town of Brookhaven. After the devastation that Hurricane Sandy visited on the boardwalks of our barrier beach, many thought that this season would be lost. However, through the hard work of Fire Island businesses and homeowners and the assistance of the Federal and local governments, we were able to declare that Fire Island was 'Back in Business' by the Fourth of July weekend," said Supervisor Romaine. "This could not have been possible without the \$4.2 million grant secured by Senator Chuck Schumer to restore the boardwalks in our five Fire Island communities. On behalf of our residents, I want to thank Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand for delivering on this promise, and saving the summer tourist season for these communities."

The Town of Brookhaven sustained enormous damage as a result of Superstorm Sandy. The town is receiving 4,221,673 to repair the five boardwalks in Cherry Grove, Davis Park, Ocean Bay Park, Water Island and Fire Island Pines. Superstorm Sandy's storm surge, strong winds and inland flooding severely flooded the five boardwalks. The award captures estimated costs associated with repairing the boardwalks which collectively represent 17,718 linear feet of boardwalk decking, 55 sets of stairs and 6,544 linear feet of wooden railing.

"I am pleased that Senators Schumer and Gillibrand were able to secure the funding to help reconstruct the boardwalks," said Councilman Tim Mazzei, who represents the Fire Island communities. "Superstorm Sandy packed a sizable punch and caused a great deal of damage to our infrastructure on Fire Island. Without cooperation from all levels of government, the work that needed to get done may have taken much longer and created a hardship for residents and business owners alike."

"Superstorm Sandy caused significant damage to the boardwalks in Brookhaven," said Schumer. "I am pleased to announce this necessary federal funding to repair the boardwalks in Cherry Grove, Davis Park, Ocean Bay Park, Water Island and Fire Island Pines. This critical funding will ensure Long Islanders don't have to shoulder the entire burden of these expenses."

"The boardwalks on Fire Island were hit hard by Superstorm Sandy and the Long Island's coastal communities suffered severe damage," Gillibrand said. "This necessary reimbursement is an important step as we continue to meet New York's needs to recover and rebuild."

### **Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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